

Supplementary Note on Elipsocidae (Psocoptera) from Southern Africa

by

C. N. SMITHERS

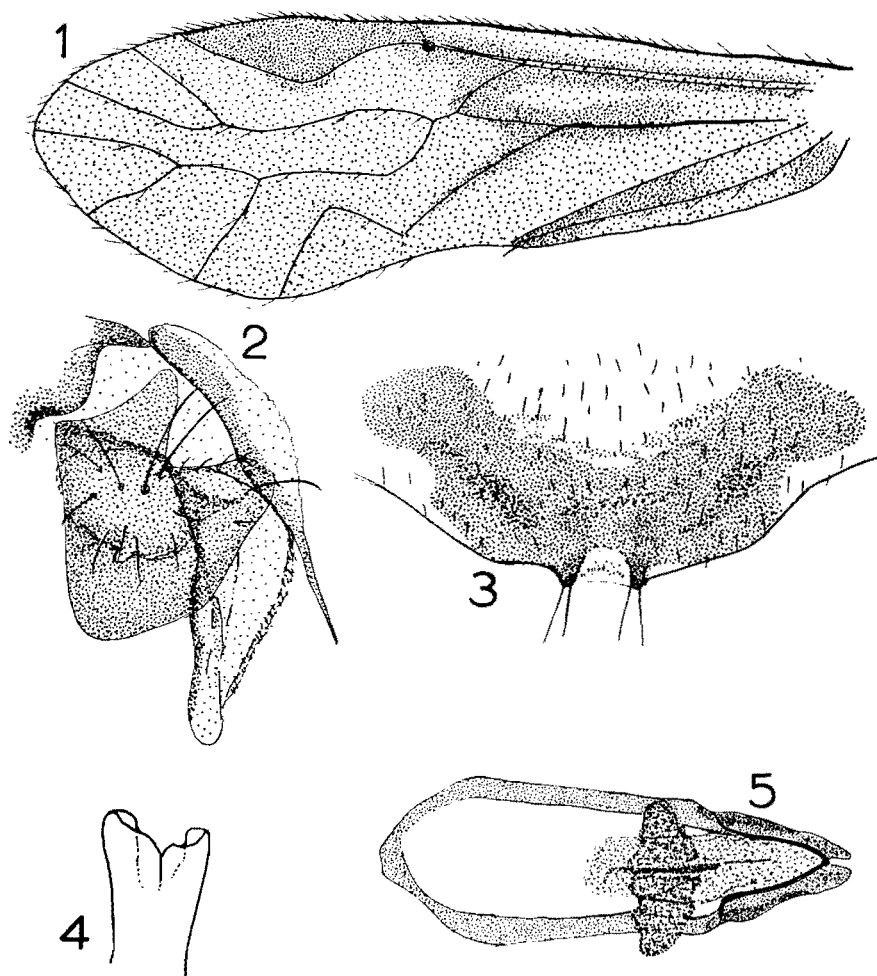
Australian Museum, Sydney, N.S.W.

This paper contains a description of a new species of *Elipsocus* Hagen from Southern Rhodesia and further records of *Elipsocus capensis* Smithers; the localities given for *E. capensis* extend the known range of the species considerably, being the first records from Natal. This short paper is supplementary to that published previously (Smithers, 1962).

***Elipsocus ustulatus* spec. nov., figs. 1-5.**

FEMALE: Colouration (in alcohol). Head very dark brown, with a slightly paler area on each epicranial plate and a similar area on each side between the antenna and ocellar triangle. Antennae with scape and pedicel dark brown, flagellum almost black. Maxillary palpi almost black. Eyes black, ocellar tubercle very dark brown. Thorax dark brown, scutellum of mesothorax almost black. Legs with coxae and femora dark brown; tibiae and tarsi very dark brown, almost black, but second tarsal segment a little paler than others. Forewings (fig. 1) hyaline, tinged with pale brown and with slightly darker markings as in figure; the depth of colour varies according to the age of the specimens, older specimens being darker than younger; veins brown. Hindwings hyaline, faintly brown in costal cell; veins brown. Abdomen pale brown, terminal structures dark brown.

Morphology: Length of body 2.7 mm. Vertex well rounded, epicranial suture very distinct. Lengths of antennal segments: $f_1 : 0.425$ mm; $f_2 : 0.325$ mm; $f_1/f_2 = 1.3 : 1$. Eyes fairly large, not reaching level of vertex when viewed from the side; IO/D : 2.3; PO : 0.86. Ocelli well developed. Antennae fairly fine, the hairs short, only about as long as the diameter of the second flagellar segment. Lacinia as in fig. 4. Measurements of hind leg: $F = 0.525$; $T = 1.1$ mm; $t_1 = 0.275$ mm; $t_2 = 0.075$ mm; $t_3 = 0.11$ mm; $rt = 3.6 : 1.0 : 1.4$; $ct = 13, 0, 0$. Basal combs of ctenidiobothria strongly developed. Forewing length 3.2 mm, width 1.1 mm. Forewing with R_s and M fused for a length; bifurcation of R_s about halfway between origins of M_1 and M_2 . Areola postica tall; hairs of margin a little stronger than those of veins and more closely set. Hindwing length 2.4 mm; width 0.8 mm. Hindwing with strong setae on margin between arms of radial fork; a few setae on margin basad to $R_2 + 3$. Epiproct with a row of four strong setae just basad of the hind margin in addition to normal setae. Paraproct with a field of about



Figs. 1-5. *Elipsocus ustulatus* spec. nov. Fig. 1, female forewing; fig. 2, female gonapophyses; fig. 3, female subgenital plate; fig. 4, female lacinia; fig. 5, male phallosome.

18 trichobothria; dorsal margin of paraproct strengthened by a heavily chitinized rod between trichobothrial field and apex. Subgenital plate as in fig. 3; gonapophyses as in fig. 2.

MALE: Colouration: As in female, but the darker areas of the wing membrane are less conspicuous and less extensive, and in some specimens absent.

Morphology: Length of body: 2.6 mm. Lengths of antennal segments: f_1 : 0.52 mm.; f_2 : 0.40 mm.; $f_1/f_2 = 1.3 : 1.0$. Antennae as in female, but flagellum a little thicker. Eyes larger than in female, reaching a little beyond vertex when viewed from the side. $IO/D = 1.6$; $PO = 0.88$. Ocelli larger and more prominent than in female. Lacinia as in female. Measurements of hind leg: $F = 0.55$ mm; $T = 1.17$ mm; $t_1 = 0.35$ mm; $t_2 = 0.075$ mm; $t_3 = 0.115$ mm; $rt = 4.6 : 1.0 : 1.5$; $ct = 17, 0, 0$. Forewing relatively broader than in female. Forewing length 3.0 mm, width 1.2 mm; forewings with R_s bifurcating opposite the origin of M_3 . Hindwing length 2.3 mm; width 0.8 mm. Epiproct in the form of an equilateral triangle with the posterior angle rounded; lightly sclerotized except for a broad, setose band running parallel with each posterolateral margin, these bands not reaching the apex of the epiproct. Paraproct with a large field of trichobothria and with a duplex seta, flanked by a pair of small setae on the hind margin. Hypandrium simple; phallosome as in fig. 5.

Material studied: Inyanga (S.Rhod.), 30-31.XII.1958, A. S. and C. N. Smithers, six ♀♀ and five ♂♂ (including ♀-holo- and ♂-allotype). Holo- and allotype will be deposited in the British Museum (Natural History) and paratypes in the Australian Museum, Sydney.

DISCUSSION: In the key to the African species of *Elipsocus* previously published (Smithers, 1962) the females and darker males of this species run to *E. capensis* Smithers. The females can be distinguished by the broader form of the external valve of the gonapophyses; paler males would run to *E. mbizianus* Smithers from which they can be distinguished by the IO/D and tarsal segment ratios.

Elipsocus capensis Smithers

NEW RECORDS: Natal: two ♀♀, Howick, 4.IX.1955, A. S. Smithers; one ♀, Botanic Gardens, Pietermaritzburg, 31.I. 1956, C. N. Smithers.

REFERENCE

- SMITHERS, C. N., 1962. New species and records of Elipsocidae (Psocoptera) from Africa. *J. ent. Soc. S. Afr.* **25**: 255-62, 19 figs.